GTF: Charter Sub-Task Force Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 24, 2022

Attendees: Ray Seigfried, Steve Benigni, Barbara Macklem, and Lynda Kolski

Meeting called to order by Ray at 7:38 Buzz Ware

The subcommittee began with a review of Section 6. Initial discussion took place over subsections (a) and (b). Many different types of "officials," like commissioners, agents, and committees, are stated, but we currently do not use most of these terms. The question was raised if we needed all of these terms. Another question was raised if this section provided for a "Town Manager" if Town Assembly wanted one. Should that term be added? After several discussions, we agreed to leave sub-sections (a) and (b) without change. However, the team did decide to modify the Section title. The recommendation is to change the title to "Officials and Committee of the Town Assembly." Additionally, we will recommend that all "officials" of the Town Assembly be defined with responsibilities, duties, and authority in a policy.

Section 7, Board of Assessors, was the next section reviewed. We referred to Mike Curtis's email regarding the term, 'full rental value". Henry George never explained exactly how to derive the full rental value of the land. Lacking a clear definition of full rental value, the Assessors struggled to create an assessment rate each year. Mike Curtis recommended a compromise for the Assessors. The subcommittee agreed with his suggestion. The subcommittee agreed to change the term "full rental value" to "full rental value or community standard of living." This change will be recommended throughout this section. It would also change the Deed of Trust and the Leases to comply with this charter change. Another change will be to eliminate the date for the public hearing from May and June, leaving it open for the Assessor to select a date that best meets the needs of the residents. It was recommended that February-May might be a better time. The time for informing the residents of the hearing would change from 5 days to 7 days. That would bring them in compliance with FOIA. Another item is that the assessment design dates may need to change if the budget aligns with a different fiscal year.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47